

*A SELECTIVE, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON  
THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY*

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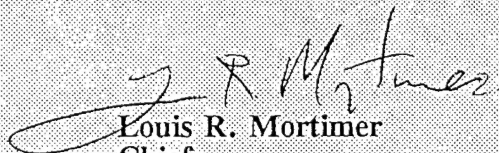
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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)  This bibliography, produced in monthly installments from an online database, provides selective annotations of serials and monographs on the army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). Entries are arranged alphabetically by author in three sections: modernization of the North Korean army, strategies and tactics used by the North Korean army during the Korean War (1950-53), and strategies and tactics used by the North Korean army since the war.				
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## PREFACE

This bibliography provides selective annotations of open-source material and covers the following topics:

- modernization of the North Korean Army,
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics in the Korean War, and
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics since the Korean War.

The bibliography incorporates serials and monographs received in the previous month and is part of a continuing series on the above subjects.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by author or title. Library of Congress call numbers, where appropriate, are included to facilitate the recovery of works cited.

## GLOSSARY

CPLA	Chinese People's Liberation Army
CFC	Combined Forces Command (US and ROK)
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)
NKA	North Korean Army
NKAF	North Korean Air Force
NKN	North Korean Navy
KPA	Korean People's Army (Comprises NKA, NKAF, and NKN)
KWP	Korean Workers' Party
ROK	Republic of Korea (South Korea)
ROKA	Republic of Korea Army
ROKAF	Republic of Korea Air Force
ROKN	Republic of Korea Navy

1. MODERNIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY

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Quarterly Economic Review of China, North Korea, (London),  
1985 annual supplement, 64 pp. HC426.Q37

The report notes that, although the NKA is well equipped and the morale of troops is probably high, Pyongyang has made little progress in improving the quality of indigenously produced weapons. The provision of MiG-23s by the Soviet Union and North Korea's illegal acquisition of 80 Hughes helicopters have helped improve the KPA. However, the high level of defense spending continues to have a negative effect on the country's economic development.

"North Korean Arms More Than Double in Decade." Korea Newsreview, (Seoul), 3 August 1985, p. 7. DS901.K715

This article discusses modernization of the NKA between 1974 and 1985. During these years, the number of personnel in the NKA is reported to have increased from 370,000 to 750,000. The number of tanks, armored personnel carriers, towed artillery, and self-propelled artillery are said to have increased by 2,600, 1,500, 900, and 1,500, respectively. Changes to the order of battle have included the formation of truck mobile divisions, mechanized brigades, and armored divisions. self-propelled artillery are said to have increased by 2,600, 1,500, 900, and 1,500, respectively. Changes to the order of battle have included the formation of truck mobile divisions, mechanized brigades and armored divisions.

Rhee, Sang-woo. "Overrun Strategy Versus Subversion Tactics: A Macro-Comparative Study on South and North Korean Unification Strategies." Asian Perspective, (Seoul), vol. 1, no. 2, fall 1977, pp. 183-211. DSl.A47459

Rhee argues in this article that the modernization of the NKA is a testament to its continued commitment to reunify the two Koreas by force. According to his calculations, North Korea could infiltrate 48,000 of its special forces troops into South Korea at one time, utilizing various types of aircraft and naval vessels. The discussion of

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the NKA includes order of battle information similar to that available in other open sources.



## 2. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THE KOREAN WAR

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Blanchard, Carroll Henry. Korean War Bibliography and Maps of Korea, Albany: State University of New York, 1964. iv. 181 pp. Maps. Z3319.K6B5

This bibliography includes books, government documents, and articles in periodicals published in the United States and abroad in the 1950s and early 1960s concerning practically every aspect of the Korean War. The subject index for periodical articles includes the following categories: [US] Army, battles and campaigns, lessons, military aspects, morale and psychological aspects. Blanchard provides a useful reference tool for locating hard-to-find information on the Korean War.

Eggenberger, David. A Dictionary of Battles, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1967. x. 526 pp. Index. D25.E35

Four major military actions of the Korean War are described in this book: the June 1950 North Korean invasion of South Korea, the Inchon landing by US Forces in September 1950, the Chinese entry into the war in October 1950, and the Chinese-North Korean attack on Seoul in April 1951. The strategy and tactics of offensive and defensive forces are discussed in concise narratives designed to provide an accurate portrayal of each event.

Goulden, Joseph C. Korea The Untold Story of the War, New York: New York Times Book Co., 1982. xxvi. 690 pp. Illustrations. Index. DS918.G69

A large portion of this book is based on Korean War intelligence reports which the author obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. In chapter 2, the author notes the following mistakes made by the ROKA and its US advisers just prior to the 25 June 1950 invasion: the front-line ROKA divisions were authorized enlisted personnel from rural areas 2 weeks leave to help their farming communities and the chief of the US Military Advisory Group in Korea thought it would be impossible for the North Koreans to use tanks effectively, given the country's terrain. In chapter 6, the author observes that the NKA had the following problems in 1950: many

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conscripts had received only 4 weeks of basic training; the quality of marksmanship was poor; and the average North Korean soldier lacked the ability to think on his own. June 1950 invasion: the ROKA divisions on the front were not at full strength because many commanders had authorized enlisted personnel from rural areas two weeks leave to help their farming communities; and the head of the US Military Advisory Group in Korea thought it would be impossible for the North Koreans to use tanks effectively given the country's terrain. In chapter six, the author observes that the NKA had the following problems in 1950: many conscripts had received only four weeks of basic training; the quality of marksmanship was poor; and the average North Korean soldier lacked the ability to think on his own.

Gugeler, Russell A. Combat Actions in Korea, Washington D.C.: United States Army, Office of the Chief of Military History, 1970. xi. 252 pp. Index. DS918.G83

This book examines the combat experiences of small units of the US Army during the Korean War. North Korean and Chinese tactics are discussed to demonstrate how they were used to exploit weaknesses in US and South Korean defenses. The book was written primarily for junior officers and enlisted personnel without combat experience to stress some of the mistakes made by US Forces in Korea.

Kim, Chum-kon. The Korean War 1950-53, 2d ed. Seoul: Kwangmyong Publishing Co., 1980. 604 pp. DS918.K47

Chapter 4 of this book compares North and South Korean preparations for war between 1946 and 1950. The author believes that the early successes of the NKA in the first 2 months of the Korean War can be attributed to close cooperation between the Soviet Union and North Korea in planning the blitzkrieg, at a time when South Korea and the United States had poor cooperation and the ROKA had insufficient resources to provide for an adequate defense. Information is provided on the order of battle of NKA and ROKA units in June 1950, the deployment of these units,

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and offensive and defensive strategies employed by both sides in the early stages of the war.

### 3. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS SINCE THE KOREAN WAR

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Cho, Sung Cho. "Korea in the Changing Pattern of East Asian International Relations in the 1990s." Korean Journal of International Studies, (Seoul), vol. 11, no. 3, summer 1980, pp. 171-76. JX1.K66

The author examines South Korean concerns about another North Korean invasion and concludes that there is little likelihood of such an occurrence for the following reasons: Beijing is using its influence to restrain Pyongyang from taking military action; pragmatic military planners in Pyongyang cannot consider such action as long as there is a US military presence in South Korea; and opposition to Communism in South Korea would make a military takeover by the North a risky endeavor even without US involvement. Cho believes a decision by Kim Il-song to invade South Korea would be the equivalent of political suicide.

Park, Yong-ok. "The International Structural Base of North Korea's Politico-Military Adventurism." Korea and World Affairs, (Seoul), vol. 2, no. 1, spring 1978. DS916.6.K67

Park sees North Korea's military policies as designed to increase its chances for winning another Korean War. He singles out universal military training and the number of special forces units in the NKA as the key reasons for his concern. Park believes that Korea's mountainous terrain would make it difficult for the South Korean armed forces to prevent North Korea from infiltrating some light infantry units behind the lines. Once inserted, Park maintains these forces would reduce the ROKA's capability to deter an attack by regular units of the NKA. In the event of another war, he believes that the NKA will attempt a blitzkrieg attack on Seoul.

Rommel, Rudolf J. "Korea and the Correlation of Forces Toward War." Korea and World Affairs, (Seoul), vol. 5, no. 1, spring 1981, pp. 18-35. DS916.6.K67

Rommel argues that a North Korean attack on South Korea is possible in the near future for the following reasons. First, Kim Il-song remains committed to using force to

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unify the two Koreas, the military capability of the North Korean Armed Forces is sufficient to encourage a perception that it could win a war, and South Korea is not demonstrating the will to counter North Korea's military advantages. Second, if the Soviet Union decides to support a North Korean invasion of the South, it has the capability to maintain conventional military and strategic nuclear superiority over any combination of opponents in the region, including the United States. Third, the global balance between Communist and Free World forces is assessed as favoring military action by the Communists. Rommel suggests that two war scenarios are possible in Korea: Kim Il-song could initiate war on his own, believing that the Soviets would provide aid if he needed it; or the Soviet Union and North Korea could reach a secret agreement to start a war for the purposes of achieving Korean reunification under Communist rule and reducing the influence of the United States in Northeast Asia.

"Why North Korea Risks War with the U.S." U.S. News and World Report, (Washington D.C.), vol. 66, no. 18, May 1969, pp. 37-38. JK1.U65

This article analyzes why North Korea shot down a US EC-121 aircraft on 14 April 1969. The buildup of the KPA with Soviet assistance, the militarization of North Korean society, an increase in provocations directed against both the United States and South Korea, and belligerent statements made by Kim Il-song are cited to support the idea that North Korea is not afraid of starting another war on the Korean peninsula. The article provides order of battle information on the NKA and describes the US reaction to the attack on the EC-121.

Yim, Yong Soon. "North Korean Strategic Doctrine in the East Asian Regional System." Korea and World Affairs, (Seoul), vol. 5, no. 2, summer 1981, pp. 177-202. DS916.6.K67

North Korea's military doctrine is seen as an integral part of its politics. Yim argues that while Kim Il-song

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has borrowed military concepts from the Soviets and Chinese, he has molded these concepts to fit his political ideology, and the basic element of that ideology has always been the need to liberate South Korea from imperialism. That this doctrine emphasizes close coordination between civilians and the military both in peacetime and wartime and that it appears to favor guerrilla warfare tactics are said to be signs that North Korean leaders have little interest in conventional military theories on how to fight a war. If it succeeds in isolating South Korea from Japan and the United States, Yim believes Pyongyang will not hesitate to start another war. Much of the article describes how North Korea has prepared its armed forces, militia, and the civilian population to support a war of national liberation.